

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendments, claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claims 3 and 6 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added. The amendments are supported at least by Fig. 7B in the present specification. Thus, claims 1-2, and 4-5 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

The Office Action mailed July 16, 2007 rejected claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,989,862 to Baharav et al. ("Baharav") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,429,896 to Aruga et al. ("Aruga"). It is noted that claims 1 and 4 have been amended. To the extent that the rejection remains applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejection as follows.

Applicants' invention as now set forth in amended claim 1 is directed to a resolution conversion method for converting color data output from a single-plate-type color-image sensor into data of a predetermined resolution and at the same time, processing the color data so that the pixel positions of respective colors coincide with each other, wherein at least the plural resolution conversion processing is treated by one of a plurality of processing units converting resolution, each of which corresponds to different resolution conversion with each other and the processing unit is selected and executed according to an external direction.

Thus, in amended claim 1, a plurality of processing units converting resolution, each of which corresponds to different resolution conversion with each other are provided, one of the plurality of processing units processing unit is selected according to

an external direction, and the resolution conversion processing is executed by the selected one.

The Examiner admits that Baharav does not disclose or suggest that plural processes to convert the color data into different resolutions are stored in advance. In other words, Baharav does not disclose the plurality of processing units executing different resolution conversions. Therefore, Baharav does not disclose or suggest the selection of one of the processing units and the execution by the selected one, as recited in amended claim 1.

The Office Action relies on Aruga for this feature. As the Examiner has stated, Aruga discloses a digital camera comprising a ROM having instructions stored in advance, to convert the color data into different resolution and wherein the instructions to change the resolution of the image data are selected and executed according to an external direction.

However, Aruga discloses only switching of the instructions. Aruga does not disclose or suggest a plurality of processing units executing different resolution conversions, as recited in amended claim 1. In contrast to claim 1, Aruga describes "a read-only memory (ROM) 16 which stores a program used at the time when the CPU is actuated and the like," in column 3, lines 46-48 and "[t]hese modes can be switched there between as the instruction within the ROM 16 is rewritten according to an order from the external storage device OM."

As described above, neither Baharav nor Aruga discloses or suggests the plurality of processing units executing different resolution conversions, as recited in amended claim 1.

For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is allowable over the cited art. For similar reasons, the Applicants submit that claim 4 is likewise allowable. As claims 1 and 4 are allowable, the Applicants submit that claims 2 and 5, which depend from claims 1 and 4, are therefore also allowable for at least the above noted reasons and for the additional subject matter recited therein.

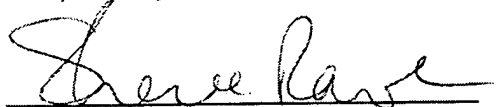
CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 100021-00127.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sheree Rowe", is written over a horizontal line.

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Attachment: Petition for Extension of Time (2 months)